Leicester, July 17, 1860.

My dear Friend Webb,

I take this opportunity to say in a few words for you, having to send a communication to Elisha Mcghan from Wm. S. Bailey of Kentucky. My last to you was despatched on the morning of June 12th, and on the evening of that same day I received yours of May 29th. I am always glad to get a line from you. My wife thinks a cheerful, sunny, and kindly temperament the most enviable thing in the world — and we think you must have it in great perfection. You seem to receive whatever life brings, of labor, care, & demands of "outsiders" on your time & thoughts, with a rare patience & equanimity. We are rejoiced that the box of books got over safely, and that the customs charges were remitted, as I understand from you they were. There will be much 'bother', I am sure, in sorting and distributing, re-parcelling, and getting off to their several destinations, that little lot of books. I shall hope to hear from you the particulars, if you can find time for them, and what you think of the books themselves, — as a selection for British use. — I duly rec'd the Thompson and Douglass pamphlet, & have read it all; and last week I took it to Boston and left it with W. L. G., who had not seen it, but was very glad to see it. — O. Johnson has got his copy and thinks (as all must do) that Thompson's refutation of D.'s sophistries and exposure of his tricks & falsehood, is overwhelming. If you have any opp.y of sending, it would be well to send a dozen or two copies of that pamphlet to Am.n A.S. Soc.y — either to 5 Beekman St. Newyork, or to 221 Washington St. Boston. They cd. be charged in acc.t with me. By the way you can credit yourself (& charge me) with Fourteen ($14.) Dollars received for the A.S. Advocate for year Oct.o 59 to Oct.o 60. — The July No. was a very good one indeed. I am glad the certificate about Miss Bird's book is printed. I hear from Birmingham that my friends there are very glad it is to be printed. I wish to ask you to send half a dozen copies of the July Advocate (namely the "Circular" about Miss Bird's book) to Miss M. L. M. Goddard, Care J. Goddard Esq. Birmingham, and charge papers & postage to me. — Have any the papers published the "Circular"? Before this time, doubtless, Mattie Griffith has arrived in England. I fear she will have suffered by the voyage — she is in quite slender health, and I suspect has hurt herself with too much physic. Don't let her know I said such a thing.

My wife joins in regards & kind regards to Richard Webb, both to them and you.

I hope Charles K. Whipple will have sent you, in season for the August Advocate, a letter about Rev. Dr. Gardiner Spring, a notorious proslavery Presbyterian of New York city. It seems that an effort was made to invite him to a certain great Religious meeting to be held somewhere in England, near the 1st of August — commemorative of the Reformation, if I rightly understand it. The effort, as Eliza Wigham wrote me, had failed, & I should not be at all surprised if the attempt are renewed, and that, in some indirect and imprudent way, Spring were brought into the meeting. I have heard of his going abroad. That mean fellow, Dr. Murray will be on hand doubtless. He seems to have thrown dust effectually into the eyes of the "Dean of Carlisle", who ought to have the "Earl of Carlisle" set upon him. —

Dr. Cheever sailed from New York last Saturday for your shores, where I hope he will be able to hold many meetings, and infuse something of his electric force into the religious bodies of Gr. Britain. I trust that crowds will hear him, altho' I doubt if his style of speaking prove generally acceptable in England. It is needful to know what he knows of Slavery & of its Infernalism, & of its Defenders, to feel and speak as he does. — Charles Sumner has made two very great and effective speeches, — worthy of his prime. How contemptibly & shamefully the London Times has criticized & misrepresented the Senator's speech. — Sumner goes too far in eulogizing the Republican party. It is scarcely possible he can believe they will do, or dare attempt, what he predicts.

I have scarce left myself room to acknowledge your of 22d June (rec'd. July 6.), the year rec'd. since its reception from what I have said above. — I quite agree with you & many of Redpath's Life of Brown. Its defects & faults are glaring. We need another life of Brown. Some time, possibly, we may get it. — Mrs. Chapman's sisters have left Italy and are travelling with their brother Dr. Hervey Weston. Letters, &c. for them are now sent to Paris, I understand, — to care of M. Laugel — have you his address? — My son Edward is established at Saigon, in Cochin China as agent for a Hong Kong house, and his prospects are good.

But it is a great trial to have him so far away. — My love to Richard, Emily & all. Yrs. Saml. May Jr.

WSB to SM Jr. 1870